

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-10 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 AID-05 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /105 W

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P R 051553Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 738

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 4751

E.O. N/A

ETRD,EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN REACTION TO NEWS ON BENTSEN AMENDMENT

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, ECUADOREAN PRESS OF JULY 2 PROMINENTLY FEATURED UPI STORY FROM WASHINGTON TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EXCLUSION OF ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA FROM GSP WOULD BE ELIMINATED ON JULY 20, WHEN THE SENATE WAS EXPECTED TO APPROVE THE BENTSEN AMENDMENT. LOCAL REACTION HAS BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC.

2. THE SUBSECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS CALLED THE AMBASSADOR TO ASK IF THE EMBASSY HAD ANY INFORMATION OTHER THAN WHAT HAD APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPER. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE HAD HAD NO INFORMATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT, BUT THAT BASED ON THE STRONG STATEMENTS MADE TO THE CONGRESS BY THE SECRETARY AND ROGERS ABOUT THE DELETERIOUS EFFECTS OF THE EXCLUSION, HE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THE BENTSEN AMENDMENT HAD BEEN REVIVED. HE CAUTIONED THAT EVEN IF THE AMENDMENT PASSED THE SENATE IT WOULD ALSO HAVE TO RUN THE GAUNTLET IN THE HOUSE.

3. THE COMMENTS OF BOTH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES ON THE UPI STORY WERE FEATURED ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NIGHTLY TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS OF JULY 2. THE FOREIGN

MINISTER CAUTIONED THAT THE PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENT WAS NOT CERTAIN. HE SAID THAT THE GOE WOULD WELCOME APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT AS THE JUST CONCOUSION OF THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS OF ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA AND MENTIONED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SUPPORT FOR THE REPEAL OF THE EXCLUSION. THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIES SAID THAT REPEAL OF THE EXCLUSION WOULD BENEFIT ECUADOR BY OPENING UP NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ECUADOREAN MANUFACTURED EXPOTS.

4. AT THE 4TH OF JULY RECEPTION THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS MOST PLEASED AT THE NEWS AND HOPEFUL THAT SOMETHING WOULD COME OF IT. "IT WOULD REMOVE THE ONE CLOUD IN OUR RELATIONS," HE SAID. HE HAD ASKED AMBASSADOR CARDENAS TO LOOK INTO THE STORY AND MAKE A FULL REPORT.

5. QUITO'S PRESTIGIOUS "EL COMERCIO" CARRIED AN EDITORIAL ON JULY 3 COMMENTING ON TTHE UPI STORY THE GIST OF WHICH WAS THAT APPROVAL OF THE BENTSEN AMENDMENT WOULD BE AN ACT OF STATEMANSHIP BY THE U.S. AND A TRIUMPH FOR HEMISPHERIC SOLIDARITY.

6. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT HAVE CONCERNING THE ACCURACY OF THE UPI STORY AND THE LEGISLATIVE PROSPECTS FOR THE AMENDMENT.

BLOOMFIELD

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